


STABLE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL 1

Facilitate regional collaboration regarding ground water supply for the future of McHenry County

OBJECTIVE A 	
Raise public awareness of groundwater issues	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Promote low use water industries and conservation practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County has become a fiscal sponsor and home to McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program (MCSEEP) upon their new partnership with McHenry County.✓ McHenry County has initiated a year-long process to update the County's Water Resources Action Plan. The first edition of the WRAP was prepared in 2009 and resulted in the completion of numerous scientific studies and actions that helped protect the County's water supplies. Planning & Development has completed 12 of 13 scheduled stakeholder meetings. Each meeting has been attended on an average by 45 participants who have received presentations from the McHenry County division of Transportation, the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, McHenry Township Road District, Illinois State Geological Survey, the McHenry County Conservation District, the Illinois State Water Survey, CMAP, the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Wetlands Research, Inc., IEPA, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and many other water resource experts. The updated WRAP is scheduled to be adopted by the County Board in mid-2020 and will be a comprehensive guide designed to educate municipalities, businesses and individuals about water resources, the potential threats to those resources, and best management practices that can protect or restore them.✓ County staff has proposed a resolution to the County Board which would approve the McHenry County Artificial and Living Snow Fence Program and would appropriate funds. Snow fences reduce snow drift as

	<p>well as the amount of salt needed to clear roads. The reduction of road salt reduces the amount of pollution that can seep into the County's sensitive aquifer system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The County staff, with assistance from the Village of Algonquin and the Town of Linn, Wisconsin, held the 11th Annual McHenry County Sensible Salting Workshop in November of 2019 to promote Sensible Salting Best Management Practices and to preserve safe drinking water from the County's waterways and ground water aquifers. There were 137 attendees with 117 from agencies in McHenry County and 20 from other counties. ✓ On September 11, 2019, the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development held the 3rd Annual McHenry County Water Forum. This year's topic was "Flooding in McHenry County." The forum was attended by over 170 persons who heard presentations and interacted with the IL State Floodplain Manager, IL State Climatologist (emeritus), McHenry County Water Resources Manager, and engineers from Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers. ✓ Planning & Development held McHenry County Water Day on September 12, 2018. Water Day provided residents, businesses, elected officials and municipal staff with an opportunity to learn what makes our local water supplies unique and what we can do to ensure that clean and sustainable water resources are available in the future. Water Day included a Groundwater Field Trip, with 45 participants and the 2nd annual Water Forum, which was attended by approximately 90 people. On the field trip, Dr. Jason Thomason, a noted geologist from the Illinois State Geological Survey, provided a first-hand view of how geologic events of the past shape our land and water today. James Patchett, Founder and President of the Conservation Design Forum gave the keynote address. ✓ See Goal 2, Objective A ✓ The County educated the public using groundwater model demonstrations at the McHenry County Fair, Woodstock Farmers Market, the Crystal Lake Johnny Appleseed Day, and a Girl Scout event.
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OBJECTIVE B

Facilitate regional collaboration of ground water and water resources

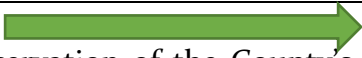


Tasks	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Monitor and plan for effective drainage ways and storm water management to promote healthy communities and provide essential systems for economic growth and a sustainable quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ See Objective A(1).✓ An amended McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance was placed on 30 day review and is up for action at the County Board's September 2020 meeting. This ordinance will require increased communication and drainage capacity standards to better prepare the County for future flooding events.✓ At its March 2020 meeting, the County Board voted to enter the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Greenest Region Compact which guides counties and municipal governments in a shared goal of enhancing the quality of life of residents with the responsible use and protection of natural resources while maintaining sustainable economic vitality.✓ The County has received an electric vehicle charging station through a grant awarded by the McHenry County Environmental Defenders and the Community Foundation of McHenry County.✓ In November, 2019, the County Board continued the cooperative agreement with the USGS to monitor groundwater wells for another two years. This program enables the county to monitor its current and long-term water resources issues such as potential water shortages, degradation of drinking water-quality, and increased stormwater runoff.✓ In November 2019, the County Board approved amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance allowing recreational cannabis uses, eliminating fees-in-lieu of school land dedication, and providing other technical clarifications and corrections.✓ The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amendments were adopted by the County Board in March of 2018. The UDO includes the updated SARA maps as well as additional protection to groundwater recharge areas.✓ The SARA Map has been updated based on the 3-Dimensional Geologic mapping that


	<p>the Illinois State Geologic Survey developed for McHenry County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ McHenry County has moved from a Class 8 to a Class 7 community within the FEMA Community Rating System. The Class 7 rating qualifies flood insurance policy holders a savings up to 15 percent on flood insurance premiums. In total, the upgrade in class rating level accounts for a total savings of \$112,713 annually for citizens of unincorporated McHenry County. For the typical homeowners, the average estimated savings for a flood insurance policy will go from \$138 to \$205. ✓ In fulfillment of a contract with McHenry County, the U.S. Geologic Survey completed an analysis of hydrogeology and quality of the McHenry County aquifer and provided findings. ✓ Water resource staff participated in planning meetings with multi-county and citizen group water resource organizations such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Water Planning Alliance • Northern Regional Protection Planning Committee • Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inventory / organize environmentally focused documents and plans already in place (WRAP, stormwater plans, green infrastructure, drainage district and food plans)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ McHenry County has organized the Water Resource Action Plan, the McHenry County Green Infrastructure Plan, The McHenry County Local Food Assessment Technical Report and Recommendations and the Stormwater Management Program Plan into the Strategic Plan webpage for the convenience of our residents.

GOAL 2

Balance growth with environmental protection

OBJECTIVE A 	
Promote sustainable development that is balanced with preservation of the County's open space, agricultural land, and water supply	
Tasks	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Remain committed to the careful use of water resources in and across the County; monitor developments at the community, County, regional and state level to determine impacts on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In November 2019, the County Board approved an agreement with the United States Geological Survey to analyze the water quality and quantity data collected in 2020 and compare it to the samples taken in 2010. The resulting report will: (1) provide

<p>groundwater, surface water and water supply</p>	<p>documentation, interpretations, and discussions of how the water quality data can assist the County in making informed decisions regarding management of its water resources; and (2) provide a summary of general water quality information and trends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Fox River Corridor Plan received the 2019 Best Practice award from the American Planning Association IL Chapter. ✓ The Future Energy Jobs Bill (SB 2814) was enacted into law on December 7, 2016. The law calls for updates to Illinois' renewable portfolio standards, including the establishment of a community solar program. Of the 25 community solar farm sites approved by McHenry County, five were selected by the Illinois Power Agency, through a lottery, to participate in the first allocation of the state Adjustable Block Program. The selected site are located in Hartland, Greenwood, Riley, Marengo, and Coral townships. ✓ In January 2020, the County Board will vote on approving an IGA with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for Local Technical Assistance to continue planning for the Fox River Corridor between Burtons Bridge and Dutch Creek (Phase 3). The comprehensive plan to utilize the Fox River as a hub for recreation and commerce while protecting water quality and environmental resources will be developed with community input and participation by the City of McHenry, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the McHenry County Conservation District, and Fox Waterway Agency. The plan will build on previous planning efforts from Carpentersville to Algonquin and from Algonquin to the Burtons Bridge area. ✓ The County Board adopted the Fox River Corridor Plan Phase 2, which aims to improve water quality, multi-modal transportation access, recreation and open space and river-related commerce. ✓ County staff submits the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Stormwater Management Program Plan (SMPP) annually and meets the minimum standards required by the USEPA under the NPDES program. P&D
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	<p>staff submitted the Year 16 annual Municipal Separate Storm Systems (MS4) report and Stormwater Management Program Plan (SMPP) to IEPA prior to the June 1, 2019 deadline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Crystal Lake Park District completed the Stern's Fen Restoration – Phase II Project utilizing McHenry County wetland mitigation grant funds. ✓ Staff has created a comprehensive 30-minute overview presentation of McHenry County Water Resources Challenges and Opportunities, which is available for presentation to community groups.
OBJECTIVE B Increase open space conservation efforts 	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Balance growth with environmental protection and conservation of the County's open spaces and fundamental land-based/production agriculture and agri-businesses in a vital corridor of the state's northern tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The County Board voted at its March 2020 meeting, to accept a \$1,495,656 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the McHenry County Flood Hazard Mitigation Project to remove flood prone structures and increase open space. ✓ Planning & Development purchased nine properties (consisting of 30 parcels) and demolished six homes and out-buildings on repetitively flooded properties using \$1.1 million in grant funding from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project. The vacant properties will be transferred to the McHenry County Conservation District next spring. The County was awarded an additional \$1.7 million grant from the IDNR for the purchase of 10 additional repetitive flood properties and the demolition of all structures. ✓ 7503 Carlton Drive, Spring Grove; 12001 Maple Avenue, Hebron; and 4115 Thompson Road, Wonder Lake have been demolished using funding provided by the State of Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA) and CDBG. The Carlton Drive property has been transferred to the McHenry County Conservation District to be maintained as permanent open space as it is located in the Nippersink Creek

	<p>floodplain. The other properties remain in the ownership of the Village of Hebron and the Nippersink Watershed Association. This completes the IHDA Abandoned Residential Property Program grant. The Department has remaining CDBG funding for the demolition of additional abandoned residential properties. In January 2020, the County obtained a court order to demolish an abandoned residential property on Crestwood Avenue, McHenry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Environmental Health partnered with the Division of Transportation to provide a tire recycling event for County residents in June of 2018. In all, 17 tons of tires were collected and recycled. ✓ The newly adopted Unified Development Ordinance supports agriculture and agribusiness by reducing regulations as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening the definition of agriculture to include retail sale of products grown on site, including farm stands, u-pick operations, and community supported agriculture • Establishing limited agritourism as a permitted use in agricultural and business zoning districts • Creating an expanded Intensive Agritourism use category that is allowed as a conditional use in the agricultural, B-1, and B-2 zoning districts and by-right in the B-3 zoning district • Expanding farm stand use to allow the sale of: fresh fruits and vegetables without limitations as to the source; nursery stock, eggs, meat, and dairy products produced on property owned by the farm stand owner; and agricultural crafts • Exempting farm stands from building codes • Expanding home occupations to include food processing such as the preparation, processing, canning, and packaging of food products • Reducing limits on the use of agricultural exempt structures to allow up to 50% of the floor area to be used for non-agricultural purposes
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting home occupations the ability to use accessory structures and up to 50% of an agricultural exempt structure • Allowing landscape businesses without outdoor storage to be a permitted use in A-1, office, and industrial zoning
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Items that are followed with an asterisk (*) are Action Items that the County Board articulated when it reviewed the Strategic Plan in 2019.